United Nations E/2002/SR.22

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

11 October 2002

Original: English

Substantive session for 2002
Coordination segment

Provisional summary record of the 22nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 12 July 2002, at 4 p.m.

President: Ms. Rasi (Vice-President) ..... (Finland)

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02-48010 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (*continued*) (E/2002/12 and Corr.1, 56, 62 and 73)

1. **Mr. Shumaina** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in addition to discharging the functions specified in the Charter, the Council now had to work to achieve the Millennium development goals. That required broad cooperation among all partners concerned; the consensus achieved at the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey had given a powerful stimulus to the Council in achieving the objectives of the Millennium Summit.

2. It was not enough to define objectives and pass resolutions; following them up and implementing them were crucial. The international community should pull together to confront the challenges to sustainable development, including conflicts throughout Africa. His country attached particular importance to ending conflicts in the African continent and had played an important role in that regard and in reducing tension. It was convinced that the attainment of security and peace would create a climate conducive to stability and sustainable development. The establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict was an important step in the right direction. In that context, he noted the agreements reached by African leaders at their conference held in Durban on 8 and 9 July 2002 at which the creation of the African Union was announced. An important body of the Union, the African Peace and Security Council, together with the African peacekeeping force would play an effective role in ending conflicts in Africa and preventing them from breaking out. That role was entirely in keeping with the efforts of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to establish stability and sustainable development in Africa.

3. His delegation hoped that that important step would be welcomed by the United Nations and the international community, and that support would be provided to the Economic and Social Council, as the major body responsible for coordinating the work of other United Nations organs. It trusted that efforts to ensure follow-up of the agreements that had emerged from recent conferences and meetings held under the auspices of the United Nations would also receive support.

4. **Ms. Kusorgbor** (Ghana) observed that the daunting task of reducing poverty and promoting evenly distributed socio-economic development had been further complicated by globalization. It was therefore imperative to strengthen the Council's role within the wider United Nations system, a question best addressed, however, after the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development.

5. The need for more and better interaction with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization was essential if the Council was to help achieve the Millennium development goals. Subsequent meetings between the Council and those institutions should be carefully prepared in advance and should focus specifically on those goals and the outcomes of the other major United Nations conferences.

6. Equally pivotal was effective cooperation between the Council and the other two principal organs of the United Nations: the General Assembly and the Security Council. The involvement of civil society must also not be overlooked, and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to participate more in United Nations activities. Furthermore, a strengthened relationship between the Council and its functional commissions was critical; a mechanism to improve the Council's oversight and management of its subsidiary bodies would curtail duplication and excess and would facilitate a well-coordinated, system-wide consideration of all economic and social issues.

7. Poverty reduction and conflict prevention were two sides of the same coin, and her delegation endorsed the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2002/12 and Corr.1) for establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, which would complement the broad-based activities under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). If more effort was put into conflict prevention, there would be less need for peacekeeping missions, relief programmes and the reconstruction of States.

8. **Ms. Loemban Tobing-Klein** (Suriname) said that the observer for Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, had highlighted the need to

strengthen the Council's role in coordination of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and to make the Council more effective. Moreover, the new challenges involving peace-building and conflict prevention, in addition to the Council's various other responsibilities specifically within its mandate, had been set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2002/62). During the past six months, the Council Bureau and secretariat had done their utmost to make Member States aware of the Council's enormous potential. Other commendable initiatives had included the high-level round tables on education, health and human resources and the dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions.

9. Her delegation agreed that there should be a strong and effective partnership between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, for without the work of civil society, the Organization's noble goals would not be realized.

10. The enlightening panel presentations and discussions during the operational activities segment of the current session had shown that the Council was on the right track and must continue to make an impact in the daily lives of people, particularly in those countries where the vulnerable majorities lived below the poverty level. In order to mobilize the necessary level of funding for the attainment of social and economic goals, the process of reform within the Council had to be completed as soon as possible. Her delegation favoured the proposed extension of the membership in the Council to all Member States.

11. The report of the Secretary-General on the long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2002/56), a fellow Caribbean country, provided an overview of the situation since 2001 in relation to difficulties encountered and improvements made. The main point to retain was that Haiti needed help and that better-coordinated operational activities by the United Nations under the long-term programme were in the best interests of its people.

12. **Mr. Holubov** (Ukraine) said that the effectiveness of the Council's work depended on strengthening its role as the central coordinating body of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. It should be equipped to provide more guidance on follow-up to the major United Nations conferences by taking a coordinated approach to achieving the internationally agreed goals.

13. A mechanism should be established that made full use of the Council in the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. Future Council meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions should focus on mobilizing all types of resources in implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. One of the major challenges was to help bring the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders together in a systematic dialogue. Broadening its outreach, the Council should involve national policy makers and civil society more closely in its own activities. Overall policy coherence should be ensured by integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of development, particularly in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The progress towards the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development goals should be measured in a consistent and unified way, and the Council should thus encourage the harmonization, under the leadership of the Statistical Commission, of the specific indicators used by the United Nations.

14. A key element in the reform of the Council was to improve its ability to oversee and manage its subsidiary bodies. It should, for example, more closely review the proposals of its functional commissions, and encourage them to work together substantively in order to avoid duplication.

15. While it should operate within its mandate, the Council should not be isolated from other core activities of the United Nations. Its potential for collaboration with the General Assembly and the Security Council in conflict prevention and peace-building should be explored. The Council should assist in the development of conflict-prevention strategies by analysing how the economic and social root causes of conflict could be addressed. Given its institutional capacity, the Council could help organize regional conflict-prevention initiatives and mobilize support for peace-building in specific countries.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.